

**MORAY LOCAL OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM
37th MEETING
Monday 16th March 2015 4:00pm - Elgin Library**

MINUTES

Members Present: Michelle Gillibrand (Chair), Rebecca Russell, Andy Anderson, Janet Trythall, Clive Roberts, Mary Stelmach, John Smith (outgoing member), Fiona Murdoch, Wilson Metcalfe, Stewart Evans, D MacPherson (Outgoing member), J Oliver

Present: Ian Douglas, Moray Council Outdoor Access Manager

Non Attendees: Ian Green

Item		Action
1	In welcoming new members Stewart Evans (User) and Angus Dixon (Land Manager) each member of the Forum gave a brief description of their interests and activities.	
2	Apologies	
	Apologies received from, Fay Gonzalez, Gareth Jenkins, Gilbert Bain, S Reid, Ian Cowe, Angus Dixon	
3	Accuracy of previous minutes	
	Minutes approved. Proposed: Mary Stelmach, Seconded: Wilson Metcalfe	
4	Membership Review	
	<p>The appointed sub-committee met previously and scored the four candidates based upon presented information. Recommendation was to appoint the following candidates: Patrick Carroll, Ed Dunbar and Alistair Sutherland with Sheena Nicholson being asked to standby as reserve.</p> <p>In order to maintain the balance of representation Alistair Sutherland to be asked, in view of his community activity to represent Users. Forum agreed recommendations.</p> <p>A further review of the constitution was considered unnecessary at this time.</p>	
5	Appointment of Vice-Chair	
	It was considered appropriate to appoint a Vice-Chair to support and stand in for the Chair when required. Members were asked to submit nominations to ID before the next meeting.	ALL
6	Matters Arising	
	<p>Item 5: No final design for signage on the Flood Alleviation Cycle Path has been agreed. ID to pursue Forum input.</p> <p>G Bain update on replacement of I Green</p> <p>Item 10: Site visit to Dorenell Wind Farm postponed due to weather conditions. New dates to be sought with Infinergy.</p>	<p>ID</p> <p>GB</p> <p>JO</p>

	<p>Item 11: Ben Rinnes meeting to be arranged to discuss car parking</p> <p>Item 12: A legal officer of the Council to be invited to attend. Letter to be sent re Moray Councils corporate policy to support path volunteers.</p>	<p>FM</p> <p>MG</p>
7	Update on Presentation onsite Visits	
	<p>Dufftown Spur Landslip will be consolidated and improved but due to condition remains 'not recommended' for horses.</p> <p>Covesea Path link to MCT repaired and much improved. Team to be thanked: MG to send email to Grant Speed of Council Lands & Parks department.</p>	MG
8	Business Plan	
	<p>Item 1: LOAF Members were invited to put forward suggestions for additional Core Paths.</p> <p>Sub-group with cross Moray geographical cover to be formed at next meeting.</p> <p>Mannoch Road raised by JO as a Candidate Core Path - this path is an Aspirational Core Path at present.</p> <p>Item 2: MG to attend Rothes Community Group to offer support for Railway Path Project.</p> <p>Item 5/6: MG to attend Moray Forum on 29th June. This group have an interest in the Lossie Bridge and the MCT.</p> <p>MG has been attending whenever possible Community Council Meetings as appropriate.</p> <p>Item 7: Delete 'adopt' and replace with 'explore a path 2015'</p> <p>Item 12: Moray Outdoor Access Strategy – ongoing, await draft but has a relatively low priority within the council.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>MG</p> <p>ID</p>
9	Communications Plan	
	<p>Sub Group meeting to be organised before next Forum in June.</p> <p>LOAF to man stand at Gordon Castle 17th May. Will be attended by F Murdoch; J Oliver; I Douglas; M Gillibrand; R Roberts. Other volunteers to put their names forward to Michelle.</p> <p>Check if free pitch to be offered this year.</p> <p>Contact to be made re co-operation with Moray Walking Festival</p> <p>Supply of leaflets and Core Path Maps to be assembled for the Gordon Castle event.</p>	<p>MG</p> <p>MG</p> <p>FM</p> <p>ID/MG</p>

	<p>Pitgaveney Farm Open Day 24th May - pitch offered to be shared with Moray Walking Festival. Names to be submitted to Michelle to assist her and Fiona who will be attending.</p> <p>A photoshoot at Moray Leisure Centre resulted in a well received press release appearing in the Northern Scot and in Moray Social Media.</p> <p>Web-site analysis in hand. Will be presented at next meeting.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>MG</p>
10	Active Cairngorms	
	<p>Consultation response date for this proposal 10th April. The general view was that this was a well thought-out, well presented document for the Cairngorms National Park.</p> <p>Individual member encouraged to provide feedback to CNPA.</p> <p>Letter of commendation to be sent as the Forum response.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>MG</p>
11	Dorenell Wind Farm Planning Application	
	<p>JO was thanked for her comprehensive response to this application on behalf of the Forum.</p> <p>ID has also submitted a Council response.</p>	
12	Joint Forums Site Visit in May – Deveron Way Proposal	
	<p>Event day agreed as Monday 25th May with the start point expected to be in Huntly in the afternoon.</p> <p>Will principally involve Aberdeenshire and Moray Access Forums with small attendance by members from Aberdeen City and Cairngorms Nat Park Access Forums. IMD has agreed with Matthew Watt (Aberdeenshire Access Officer) provisional arrangements for the event. Aberdeenshire and Moray Councils to provide 1 minibus each. Members 4 WD vehicles may be required depending on numbers attending.</p> <p>IMD and JO have visited 3 sites demonstrating access issues, (farmyards, presence of livestock, linking paths), to be overcome in developing a route called the Deveron Way between Huntly and Strathdon via the Cabrach. Matthew still to identify 3 sites on the Aberdeenshire side. Members to bring their own food and refreshments and wear appropriate clothing for the outdoors.</p> <p>Those wishing to attend advise ID asap</p> <p>ID and Matthew Watt to prepare specific itinerary details to be distributed to members a week before the visit.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>ID</p>

13	Access Issues	
	<p>GEDLOCH</p> <p>Notice about to be issued by the Planning Department requiring Mr and Mrs Watson to submit a planning application for the fence and gate they have erected on the south end of the path. Also an application for a change of use of a small area of land that has been turned into garden area which now covers the southern entrance to the path. If planning application is submitted then a condition can be attached requiring the track is kept open at all times. If application not submitted then Council can enact planning enforcement proceedings. Update on progress of planning actions will be reported at future forum meetings.</p> <p>IMD liaising with horse users over development of possible alternative route to get round the track blockage. This route has issues to be overcome including presence of livestock. BHS access officer David Kidmarsh, is now involved. BHS/horse users still to decide whether to pursue opening up of original route or whether to go for the alternative. ID to report on progress to future Forum meeting</p> <p>GARMOUTH VIADUCT BRIDGE</p> <p>Bridge closed for temporary periods while re decking work is taking place. All rotting side timber baulks are also being replaced. All good news to ensure the long term life of the bridge. Detailed structural survey of the whole bridge structure still needed.</p> <p>MCT EROSION KINLOSS BARRACKS</p> <p>ID still pursuing. MOD slow to respond but he will keep trying.</p> <p>BLOCKED TRACKS BLERVIE HOUSE</p> <p>ID visited site and recorded 7 blockages with tree trunks across various tracks at Blervie House. Traditionally residents with houses in the woodland used these tracks to drive their vehicles to and from Rafford. Such vehicle use is now obstructed. Non vehicle users can however still progress along the tracks. Response to be sent to Councillor Alexander's letter advising that as access rights are not obstructed the Forum have no input.</p>	<p>ID</p> <p>ID</p> <p>ID</p> <p>MG</p>
14	Future Site Visits	
	Proposal to be put forward in due course	MG
15	AOCB	
	J Trythall raised the community aspiration of the Hopeman/Lossiemouth cycle route to run alongside the main road; Aspirational Core Path. New feasibility study early April. ID to report findings.	ID
	Moray Tourism Summit 31 st March. MG to attend and represent	MG

	<p>LOAF</p> <p>Giant's Chair Path, Dufftown - Mr Dennis Dalgano has advised of safety concerns regarding dead/dying trees adjacent to the path. Owners Diageo initially approached but unwilling to take action. MG, JO and ID to meet Mr Dalgano on a site visit to discuss resolution options.</p>	<p>MG/JO/ID</p>
16	Date of Next Meeting	
	<p>The dates of the 2015 meetings have been arranged as below: All meetings will take place 4.00 to 6.00pm.</p> <p>Monday 15th June -Elgin Library Gallery (note corrected date) Monday 14th September-Elgin Town Hall Lounge room (note venue change) Monday 30th November-Elgin Town Hall Lounge Room (note venue change)</p>	